

What we claim is:

1. An isolated single stranded anti-microRNA molecule comprising a minimum of ten moieties and a maximum of fifty moieties on a molecular backbone, the molecular backbone comprising backbone units, each moiety comprising a base bonded to a backbone unit, each base forming a Watson-Crick base pair with a complementary base wherein:

at least ten contiguous bases have the same sequence as a sequence of bases in any one of the anti-microRNA molecules shown in Tables 1-4, except that up to thirty percent of the bases pairs may be wobble base pairs, and up to 10% of the contiguous bases may be additions, deletions, mismatches, or combinations thereof;

no more than fifty percent of the contiguous moieties contain deoxyribonucleotide backbone units;

the moiety in the molecule at the position corresponding to position 11 of the microRNA is non-complementary; and

the molecule is capable of inhibiting microRNP activity.

2. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein up to 5% of the contiguous moieties are additions, deletions, mismatches, or combinations thereof.

3. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the moieties is a deoxyribonucleotide.

4. A molecule according to claim 3, wherein the deoxyribonucleotide is a modified deoxyribonucleotide moiety.

5. A molecule according to claim 4, wherein the modified deoxyribonucleotide is a phosphorothioate deoxyribonucleotide moiety.

6. A molecule according to claim 4, wherein the modified deoxyribonucleotide is N³-N⁵ phosphoroamidate deoxyribonucleotide moiety.

7. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the moieties is a ribonucleotide moiety.
8. A molecule according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the moieties is a modified ribonucleotide moiety.
9. A molecule according to claim 8, wherein the modified ribonucleotide is substituted at the 2' position.
10. A molecule according to claim 9, wherein the substituent at the 2' position is a C₁ to C₄ alkyl group.
11. A molecule according to claim 10, wherein the alkyl group is methyl.
12. A molecule according to claim 10, wherein the alkyl group is allyl.
13. A molecule according to claim 9, wherein the substituent at the 2' position is a C₁ to C₄ alkoxy - C₁ to C₄ alkyl group.
14. A molecule according to claim 13, wherein the C₁ to C₄ alkoxy - C₁ to C₄ alkyl group is methoxyethyl.
15. A molecule according to claim 8, wherein the modified ribonucleotide has a methylene bridge between the 2'-oxygen atom and the 4'-carbon atom.
16. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the moieties is a peptide nucleic acid moiety.
17. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the moieties is a 2'-fluororibonucleotide moiety.
18. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the moieties is a morpholino phosphoroamidate nucleotide moiety.
19. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the moieties is a tricyclo nucleotide moiety.

20. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the moieties is a cyclohexene nucleotide moiety.
21. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein the molecule comprises at least one modified moiety for increased nuclease resistance.
22. A molecule according to claim 21, wherein the nuclease is an exonuclease.
23. A molecule according to claim 22, wherein the molecule comprises at least one modified moiety at the 5' end.
24. A molecule according to claim 22, wherein the molecule comprises at least two modified moieties at the 5' end.
25. A molecule according to claim 22, wherein the molecule comprises at least one modified moiety at the 3' end.
26. A molecule according to claim 22, wherein the molecule comprises at least two modified moieties at the 3' end.
27. A molecule according to claim 22, wherein the molecule comprises at least one modified moiety at the 5' end and at least one modified moiety at the 3' end.
28. A molecule according to claim 22, wherein the molecule comprises at least two modified moieties at the 5' end and at least two modified moieties at the 3' end.
29. A molecule according to claim 22, wherein the molecule comprises a nucleotide cap at the 5' end, the 3' end or both.
30. A molecule according to claim 22, wherein the molecule comprises an ethylene glycol compound and/or amino linkers at the 5' end, the 3' end, or both.
31. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein the nuclease is an endonuclease.
32. A molecule according to claim 31, wherein the molecule comprises at least one modified moiety between the 5' and 3' end.

33. A molecule according to claim 31, wherein the molecule comprises an ethylene glycol compound and/or amino linker between the 5' end and 3' end.
34. A molecule according to claim 1, wherein all of the moieties are nuclease resistant.
35. A method for inhibiting microRNP activity in a cell, the microRNP comprising a microRNA molecule, the microRNA molecule comprising a sequence of bases complementary of the sequence of bases in a single stranded anti-microRNA molecule, the method comprising introducing into the cell the single-stranded anti-microRNA molecule comprising a sequence of a minimum of ten moieties and a maximum of fifty moieties on a molecular backbone, the molecular backbone comprising backbone units, each moiety comprising a base bonded to a backbone unit, each base forming a Watson-Crick base pair with a complementary base, wherein:
- at least ten contiguous bases of the anti-microRNA molecule are complementary to the microRNA, except that up to thirty percent of the bases may be substituted by wobble base pairs, and up to ten percent of the at least ten moieties are addition, deletions, mismatches, or combinations thereof;
- no more than fifty percent of the contiguous moieties contain deoxyribonucleotide backbone units; and
- the moiety in the molecule at the position corresponding to position 11 of the microRNA is non-complementary.
36. A method according to claim 35, wherein the anti-microRNA is a human anti-microRNA.
37. A method according to claim 35, wherein the anti-microRNA is a mouse anti-microRNA.
38. A method according to claim 35, wherein the anti-microRNA is a rat anti-microRNA.
39. A method according to claim 35, wherein the anti-microRNA is a drosophila microRNA.
40. A method according to claim 35, wherein the anti-microRNA is a C. elegans microRNA.

41. An isolated microRNA molecule comprising a minimum of ten moieties and a maximum of fifty moieties on a molecular backbone, the molecular backbone comprising backbone units, each moiety comprising a base bonded to a backbone unit wherein:

at least ten contiguous bases have the same sequence as a sequence of bases in any one of the microRNA molecules shown in Table 2, except that up to thirty percent of the bases pairs may be wobble base pairs, and up to 10% of the contiguous bases are additions, deletions, mismatches, or combinations thereof; and

no more than fifty percent of the contiguous moieties contain deoxyribonucleotide backbone units.

42. A molecule according to claim 41 having the sequence shown in Table 2.

43. A molecule according to claim 41, wherein the molecule is modified for increased nuclease resistance.

44. A molecule according to claim 41, wherein the moiety at position 11 is an addition, deletion or substitution.

45. An isolated microRNA molecule comprising a minimum of ten moieties and a maximum of fifty moieties on a molecular backbone, the molecular backbone comprising backbone units, each moiety comprising a base bonded to a backbone unit wherein:

at least ten contiguous bases have any one of the microRNA sequences shown in Tables 1, 3 and 4, except that up to thirty percent of the bases pairs may be wobble base pairs, and up to 10% of the contiguous bases are additions, deletions, mismatches, or combinations thereof;

no more than fifty percent of the contiguous moieties contain deoxyribonucleotide backbone units; and

is modified for increased nuclease resistance.

46. A molecule according to claim 45, wherein the molecule is modified for increased nuclease resistance.

47. A molecule according to claim 45, wherein the moiety at position 11 is an addition, deletion, or substitution.

48. An isolated single stranded anti-microRNA molecule comprising a minimum of ten moieties and a maximum of fifty moieties on a molecular backbone, the molecular backbone comprising backbone units, each moiety comprising a base bonded to a backbone unit, each base forming a Watson-Crick base pair with a complementary base wherein:

at least ten contiguous bases have the same sequence as a sequence of bases in any one of the anti-microRNA molecules shown in Tables 1-4, except that up to thirty percent of the bases pairs may be wobble base pairs, and up to 10% of the contiguous bases may be additions, deletions, mismatches, or combinations thereof;

no more than fifty percent of the contiguous moieties contain deoxyribonucleotide backbone units; and

the molecule is capable of inhibiting microRNP activity.

49. A method for inhibiting microRNP activity in a cell, the microRNP comprising a microRNA molecule, the microRNA molecule comprising a sequences of bases complementary of the sequence of bases in a single stranded anti-microRNA molecule, the method comprising introducing into the cell the single-stranded anti-microRNA molecule comprising a sequence of a minimum of ten moieties and a maximum of fifty moieties on a molecular backbone, the molecular backbone comprising backbone units, each moiety comprising a base bonded to a backbone unit, each base forming a Watson-Crick base pair with a complementary base, wherein:

at least ten contiguous bases of the anti-microRNA molecule are complementary to the microRNA, except that up to thirty percent of the bases may be substituted by wobble base pairs, and up to ten percent of the at least ten moieties may be additions, deletions, mismatches, or combinations thereof; and

no more than fifty percent of the contiguous moieties contain deoxyribonucleotide backbone units.